

CLAIMS

I claim:

1 1. A fax machine for routing voice/video/fax mail
2 comprising a processor and memory, said fax machine being
3 configured for routing voice/video/fax mail to associated
4 recipients.

1 2. The fax machine according to claim 1, further comprising
2 an operating panel.

1 3. The fax machine according to claim 1, further comprising
2 an operating display screen.

1 4. The fax machine according to claim 1, further comprising
2 a microphone/speaker.

1 5. The fax machine according to claim 1, further comprising
2 a telephone handset.

1 6. The fax machine according to claim 1, further comprising
2 a sealed paper tray.

1 7. The fax machine according to claim 1, further comprising
2 an auxiliary paper tray.

1 8. The fax machine according to claim 1, further comprising
2 a printer.

1 9. The fax machine according to claim 1, further comprising
2 an audio/video recording camera.

1 10. The fax machine according to claim 1, further
2 comprising a modem.

1 11. The fax machine according to claim 1, further
2 comprising a keyboard.

1 12. The fax machine according to claim 1, further
2 comprising a mouse.

1 13. The fax machine according to claim 1, further
2 comprising a key pad.

1 14. The fax machine according to claim 13, wherein the
2 operational key pad comprises a telephone key pad.

1 15. The fax machine according to claim 1, further
2 comprising peripheral component interconnect slots.

1 16. The fax machine according to claim 1, further
2 comprising voice generator circuitry.

1 17. The fax machine according to claim 1, further
2 comprising voice recognition circuitry.

1 18. The fax machine according to claim 1, further
2 comprising a sound card.

1 19. The fax machine according to claim 1, further
2 comprising a voice/video/fax mail display.

1 20. The fax machine according to claim 1, further
2 comprising a paper scanner.

1 21. The fax machine according to claim 1, further
2 comprising a bar code reader.

1 22. The fax machine according to claim 1, further
2 comprising a finger/thumb print scanner.

1 23. The fax machine according to claim 1, further
2 comprising a retina scanner.

1 24. The fax machine according to claim 1, further
2 comprising a stylus.

1 25. The fax machine according to claim 1, further
2 comprising a signature pad.

1 26. The fax machine according to claim 1, further
2 comprising a shredder.

1 27. The fax machine according to claim 1, further
2 comprising a hard drive.

1 28. The fax machine according to claim 1, further
2 comprising a removable drive.

1 29. The fax machine according to claim 1, wherein said fax
2 machine includes fax software to configure the fax machine in a
3 VERIFICATION MODE for enabling a user to determine whether a
4 voice/video/fax mail sent from the fax machine has been retrieved
5 by a recipient at a receiving fax machine.

1 30. The fax machine according to claim 1, wherein said fax
2 machine includes fax software to configure the fax machine in a
3 RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED mode for enabling a user to receive a RETURN
4 RECEIPT REQUESTED update automatically with every voice/video/fax
5 mail sent to a receiving fax machine.

1 31. The fax machine according to claim 1, wherein said fax
2 machine includes fax software to configure the fax machine in a
3 CHECK mode for enabling a user to rapidly make a determination
4 whether voice/video/fax mail sent from a fax machine has been
5 retrieved by recipients at associated retrieving fax machines.

1 32. The fax machine according to claim 1, wherein said fax
2 machine includes fax software to configure the fax machine in a
3 FAX A CHECK mode for enabling a user to securely fax monetary
4 checks.

1 33. The fax machine according to claim 1, wherein said fax
2 machine includes fax software to configure the fax machine in a
3 FOR YOUR EYES ONLY mode for enabling a viewing party to see/hear a
4 "read only" voice/video/fax mail.

1 34. The fax machine according to claim 33, wherein said fax
2 machine further comprises a retractable screen cover with
3 eyeholes and the fax machine is configured in the FOR YOUR EYES ONLY
4 mode operable to enable a viewing party to see/hear a "read only"
5 voice/video/fax mail.

1 35. The fax machine according to claim 1, wherein said fax
2 machine includes fax software to configure the fax machine in a
3 FINGER/THUMB PRINT SCAN mode for enabling a user to verify the
4 authenticity of an intended recipient via a finger/thumb print
5 scan.

1 36. The fax machine according to claim 1, wherein said fax
2 machine includes fax software to configure the fax machine in a
3 RETINA SCAN mode for enabling a user to verify an authenticity of
4 an intended recipient via a retina scan.

1 37. The fax machine according to claim 1, wherein said fax
2 machine includes fax software to configure the fax machine in a
3 READ ONLY mode for enabling a user to only hear/read
4 voice/video/fax mail.

1 38. The fax machine according to claim 1, wherein said fax
2 machine includes fax software to configure the fax machine in an
3 INSTANT STATUS mode for enabling a user to be automatically
4 notified if voice/video/fax mail has been received at a fax
5 machine of the user.

1 39. The fax machine according to claim 1, wherein said fax
2 machine includes fax software to configure the fax machine in a
3 CARBON COPY (CC) mode for enabling a user to have assurance that a
4 voice/video/fax mail has been initiated by CC'ing a tracking
5 number of the voice/video/fax mail back to the fax machine.

1 40. The fax machine according to claim 1, wherein said fax
2 machine includes fax software to configure the fax machine in a
3 FAX QUEUE mode for providing the fax machine with a fax queue
4 which places incoming calls in a first come first serve basis,
5 and provides incoming callers with a prompt indicating an
6 approximate time the fax machine will receive a particular
7 sender's voice/video/fax mail.

1 41. The fax machine according to claim 1, wherein said fax
2 machine includes fax software to configure the fax machine in an
3 IDENTITY mode for enabling a user to ascertain whether receiving
4 fax machine is an intended target fax machine.

1 42. The fax machine according to claim 1, wherein said fax
2 machine includes fax software to configure the fax machine in a
3 DIRECTORY PROMPT mode for enabling a user using to prompt an
4 interconnected receiving fax machine for a directory of extension
5 numbers available at the receiving fax machine.

1 43. The fax machine according to claim 1, wherein said fax
2 machine includes fax software to configure the fax machine in an
3 I'M HERE WHO'S THERE mode for enabling users of said fax machine to
4 communicate in a manner similar to instant messaging or email.

1 44. The fax machine according to claim 43, wherein said fax
2 machine is configured to communicate to other fax machines in a
3 manner similar to instant messaging or email.

1 45. The fax machine according to claim 43, wherein said fax
2 machine is configured to communicate to computing devices
3 interconnected to a network connection in a manner similar to
4 instant messaging or email.

1 46. The fax machine according to claim 1, wherein said fax
2 machine includes fax software to configure the fax machine in a
3 PORTRAIT mode for enabling the fax machine equipped with a camera
4 to provide users with images of senders/receivers of
5 voice/video/fax mail, or persons, or things.

1 47. The fax machine according to claim 1, wherein said fax
2 machine includes fax software to configure the fax machine in a
3 AWAY MESSAGE mode for enabling an away message to be placed on a
4 receiving fax machine to enable senders to know that a particular
5 individual at the receiving fax machine is not present at a
6 particular time to receive voice/video/fax mail.

1 48. The fax machine according to claim 1, wherein said fax
2 machine includes fax software to configure the fax machine in a
3 REFERENCE/LIBRARY mode for providing internal/external access to
4 documents/information stored in a storage database.

1 49. The fax machine according to claim 1, wherein said fax
2 machine includes fax software to configure the fax machine in a
3 TOUCH PAD mode to activate a full size touch pad to allow
4 participants to instant message in script.

1 50. The fax machine according to claim 1, wherein said fax
2 machine includes fax software to configure the fax machine in a
3 VOICE RECOGNITION mode to enable the fax machine to match an
4 intended receiver with a previously stored library of voices
5 before transmitting a voice/video/fax mail.

1 51. The fax machine according to claim 1, wherein said fax
2 machine includes fax software to configure the fax machine in a
3 PARTY LINE mode to enable a transmitting fax machine to be
4 communicatively connected to plural receiving fax machines via a
5 party line.

1 52. The fax machine according to claim 1, wherein said fax
2 machine includes fax software to configure the fax machine in a
3 VIEW A DOCUMENT mode to enable the fax machine to determine whether
4 a sender of a fax transmission requires previewing of an image of
5 the fax transmission prior to electronically/physically releasing
6 delivery of the fax transmission to a receiving fax machine.

1 53. The fax machine according to claim 1, wherein said fax
2 machine includes fax software to configure the fax machine in a
3 CONTRACT mode to enable the fax machine to enables a sender and a
4 receiver of a fax transmission of a contract/agreement/under-
5 standing requiring signatures from both the sender and the
6 receiver to view the signatures of the sender and the receiver at
7 transmitting and receiving fax machines at both ends of the fax
8 transmission.

1 54. The fax machine according to claim 1, further
2 comprising check paper including a tracking number and a bar code
3 running along one side of the check paper.

1 55. The fax machine according to claim 1, wherein the fax
2 machine activates an alarm upon a breach of security of the fax
3 machine.

1 56. The fax machine according to claim 55, wherein the
2 alarm results in emission of an audible sound at a predetermined
3 decibel level.

1 57. The fax machine according to claim 55, wherein the
2 alarm results in transmission of a signal to a remote authorized
3 party to advise them of a breach in security protocol of the fax
4 machine.

1 58. A fax system comprising:
2 a first fax machine communicatively interconnected with a
3 second fax machine,
4 said first fax machine including a processor and memory, and
5 being configured for routing voice/video/fax mail to associated
6 recipients; and
7 said second fax machine including a processor and memory,
8 and being configured for routing voice/video/fax mail to
9 associated recipients,
10 wherein said first fax machine is configured to route
11 voice/video/fax mail to associated recipients at said second fax
12 machine.

1 59. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each further comprise an operating
3 panel.

1 60. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each further comprise an operating
3 display screen.

1 61. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each further comprise a
3 microphone/speaker.

1 62. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each further comprise a telephone
3 handset.

1 63. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each further comprise a sealed
3 paper tray.

1 64. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each further comprise an auxiliary
3 paper tray.

1 65. The fax machine according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each further comprise a printer.

1 66. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each further comprise an
3 audio/video recording camera.

1 67. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each further comprise a modem.

1 68. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each further comprise a keyboard.

1 69. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each further comprise a mouse.

1 70. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each further comprise a key pad.

1 71. The fax system according to claim 70, wherein the key
2 pad comprises a telephone key pad.

1 72. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each further comprise peripheral
3 component interconnect slots.

1 73. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each further comprise voice
3 generator circuitry.

1 74. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each further comprise voice
3 recognition circuitry.

1 75. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each further comprise a sound card.

1 76. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each further comprise a
3 voice/video/fax mail display.

1 77. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each further comprise a paper
3 scanner.

1 78. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each further comprise a bar code
3 reader.

1 79. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each further comprise a
3 finger/thumb print scanner.

1 80. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each further comprise a retina
3 scanner.

1 81. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each further comprise a stylus.

1 82. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each further comprise a signature
3 pad.

1 83. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each further comprise a shredder.

1 84. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each further comprise a hard drive.

1 85. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each further comprise a removable
3 drive.

1 86. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each include fax software to
3 configure the fax machine in a VERIFICATION MODE for enabling a user
4 to determine whether voice/video/fax mail sent from the fax
5 machine has been retrieved by a recipient at a receiving fax
6 machine.

1 87. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each include fax software to
3 configure the fax machine in a RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED mode for
4 enabling a user to receive a RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED update
5 automatically with every voice/video/fax mail sent to a receiving
6 fax machine.

1 88. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each include fax software to
3 configure the fax machine in a CHECK mode for enabling a user to
4 rapidly make a determination whether voice/video/fax mail sent
5 from a fax machine has been retrieved by recipients at associated
6 retrieving fax machines.

1 89. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each include fax software to
3 configure the fax machine in a FAX A CHECK mode for enabling a user
4 to securely fax monetary checks.

1 90. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each include fax software to
3 configure the fax machine in a FOR YOUR EYES ONLY mode for enabling
4 a viewing party to hear/see a "read only" voice/video/fax mail.

1 91. The fax machine according to claim 90, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each further comprise a retractable
3 screen cover with eyeholes and the fax machine is configured in
4 the FOR YOUR EYES ONLY mode operable to enable a viewing party to
5 hear/see a "read only" voice/video/fax mail.

1 92. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each include fax software to
3 configure the fax machine in a FINGER/THUMB PRINT SCAN mode for
4 enabling a user to verify an authenticity of an intended
5 recipient via a finger/thumb print scan.

1 93. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each include fax software to
3 configure the fax machine in a RETINA SCAN mode for enabling a user
4 to verify an authenticity of an intended recipient via a retina
5 scan.

1 94. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each include fax software to
3 configure the fax machine in a READ ONLY mode for enabling a user
4 to only hear/read voice/video/fax mail.

1 95. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each include fax software to
3 configure the fax machine in an INSTANT STATUS mode for enabling a
4 user to be automatically notified if voice/video/fax mail has
5 been received at a fax machine of the user.

1 96. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each include fax software to
3 configure the fax machine in a CARBON COPY (CC) mode for enabling a
4 user to have assurance that voice/video/fax mail has been
5 initiated by CC'ing a tracking number of the voice/video/fax mail
6 back to the fax machine.

1 97. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each include fax software to
3 configure the fax machine in a FAX QUEUE mode for providing the
4 fax machine with a fax queue which places incoming calls in a
5 first come first serve basis, and provides incoming callers with
6 a prompt indicating an approximate time the fax machine will
7 receive a particular sender's voice/video/fax mail.

1 98. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each include fax software to
3 configure the fax machine in an IDENTITY mode for enabling a user
4 to ascertain whether receiving fax machine is an intended target
5 fax machine.

1 99. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second devices each include fax software to configure
3 the fax machine in a DIRECTORY PROMPT mode for enabling a user using
4 to prompt an interconnected receiving fax machine for a directory
5 of extension numbers available at the receiving fax machine.

1 100. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each include fax software to
3 configure the fax machine in an I'M HERE WHO'S THERE mode for
4 enabling users of said fax machine to communicate in a manner
5 similar to instant messaging or email.

1 101. The fax machine according to claim 100, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines are configured to communicate to
3 other fax machines in a manner similar to instant messaging or
4 email.

1 102. The fax machine according to claim 100, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines are configured to communicate to
3 computing devices interconnected to a network connection in a
4 manner similar to instant messaging or email.

1 103. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each include fax software to
3 configure the fax machine in a PORTRAIT mode for enabling the fax
4 machine equipped with a camera to provide users with images of
5 senders/receivers of voice/video/fax mail, or persons, or things.

1 104. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each include fax software to
3 configure the fax machine in a AWAY MESSAGE mode for enabling an
4 away message to be placed on a receiving fax machine to enable
5 senders to know that a particular individual at the receiving fax
6 machine is not present at a particular time to receive
7 voice/video/fax mail.

1 105. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each include fax software to
3 configure the fax machine in a REFERENCE LIBRARY mode for providing
4 internal/external access to documents/information stored in a
5 storage database.

1 106. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each include fax software to
3 configure the fax machine in a TOUCH PAD mode to activate a full
4 size touch pad to allow participants to instant message in
5 script.

1 107. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each include fax software to
3 configure the corresponding fax machine in a VOICE RECOGNITION mode
4 to enable the fax machine to match an intended receiver with a
5 previously stored library of voices before transmitting a
6 fax/voice mail.

1 108. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each include fax software to
3 configure the corresponding fax machine in a PARTY LINE mode to
4 enable a transmitting fax machine to be communicatively connected
5 to plural receiving fax machines via a party line.

1 109. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each include fax software to
3 configure the corresponding fax machine in a VIEW A DOCUMENT mode
4 to enable the associated fax machine to determine whether a
5 sender of a fax transmission requires previewing of an image of
6 the fax transmission prior to electronically/physically releasing
7 delivery of the fax transmission to a receiving fax machine.

1 110. The fax system machine according to claim 58, wherein
2 said first and second fax machines each include fax software to
3 configure the fax machine in a CONTRACT mode to enable the
4 corresponding fax machine to enables a sender and a receiver of a
5 fax transmission of a contract/agreement/understanding requiring
6 signatures from both the sender and the receiver to view the
7 signatures of the sender and the receiver at transmitting and
8 receiving fax machines at both ends of the fax transmission.

1 111. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines each further comprise check paper
3 including a tracking number and a bar code running along one side
4 of the check paper.

1 112. The fax system according to claim 58, wherein said
2 first and second fax machines are each configured to activate an
3 alarm upon a breach of security of the associated fax machine.

1 113. The fax system according to claim 112, wherein the
2 alarm results in emission of an audible sound at a predetermined
3 decibel level.

1 114. The fax system according to claim 112, wherein the
2 alarm results in transmission of a signal to a remote authorized
3 party to advise them of a breach in security protocol of the fax
4 machine.

1 115. A method for routing voice/video/fax mail, the method
2 comprising:

3 providing a first fax machine;

4 providing a second fax machine;

5 communicatively interconnecting the first fax machine with
6 the second fax machine for a first voice/video/fax mail
7 transmission;

8 transmitting a first voice/video/fax mail with a recipient
9 fax code from the first fax machine to the second fax machine;

10 receiving the first voice/video/fax mail with the recipient
11 fax code at the second fax machine; and

12 controlling access to the first voice/video/fax mail from
13 the second fax machine based on reentry of the recipient fax code
14 at the second fax machine.

1 116. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 providing each of the first and second fax machines with an
3 operating panel.

1 117. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 providing each of the first and second fax machines with an
3 operating display screen.

1 118. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 providing each of the first and second fax machines with a
3 microphone/speaker.

1 119. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 providing each of the first and second fax machines with a
3 telephone handset.

1 120. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 providing each of the first and second fax machines with a sealed
3 paper tray.

1 121. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 providing each of the first and second fax machines with an
3 auxiliary paper tray.

1 122. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 providing each of the first and second fax machines with a
3 printer.

1 123. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 providing each of the first and second fax machines with an
3 audio/video recording camera.

1 124. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 providing each of the first and second fax machines with a modem.

1 125. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 providing each of the first and second fax machines with a
3 keyboard.

1 126. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 providing each of the first and second fax machines with a mouse.

1 127. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 providing each of the first and second fax machines with a key
3 pad.

1 128. The method according to claim 127, further comprising
2 providing the key pad as a telephone key pad.

1 129. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 providing each of the first and second fax machines with
3 peripheral component interconnect slots.

1 130. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 providing each of the first and second fax machines with voice
3 generator circuitry.

1 131. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 providing each of the first and second fax machines with voice
3 recognition circuitry.

1 132. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 providing each of the first and second fax machines with a sound
3 card.

1 133. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 providing each of the first and second fax machines with a
3 voice/video/fax mail display.

1 134. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 providing each of the first and second fax machines with a paper
3 scanner.

1 135. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 providing each of the first and second fax machines with a bar
3 code reader.

1 136. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 providing each of the first and second fax machines with a
3 finger/thumb print scanner.

1 137. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 providing each of the first and second fax machines with a retina
3 scanner.

1 138. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 providing each of the first and second fax machines with a
3 stylus.

1 139. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 providing each of the first and second fax machines with a
3 signature pad.

1 140. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 providing each of the first and second fax machines with a
3 shredder.

1 141. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 providing each of the first and second fax machines with a hard
3 drive.

1 142. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 providing each of the first and second fax machines with a
3 removable drive.

1 143. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 configuring the first and second fax machines in a VERIFICATION MODE
3 for enabling a user to determine whether a voice/video/fax mail
4 sent from the fax machine has been retrieved by a recipient at a
5 receiving fax machine.

1 144. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 configuring the first and second fax machines in a RETURN RECEIPT
3 REQUESTED mode for enabling a user to receive a RETURN RECEIPT
4 REQUESTED update automatically with every voice/video/fax mail
5 sent to a receiving fax machine.

1 145. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 configuring the first and second fax machines in a CHECK mode for
3 enabling a user to rapidly make a determination whether
4 voice/video/fax mail sent from a fax machine has been retrieved
5 by recipients at associated retrieving fax machines.

1 146. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 configuring the first and second fax machines in a FAX A CHECK mode
3 for enabling a user to securely fax monetary checks.

1 147. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 configuring the first and second fax machines in a FOR YOUR EYES
3 ONLY mode for enabling a viewing party to see a "read only"
4 transfer.

1 148. The method according to claim 147, further comprising
2 configuring the first and second fax machines with a retractable
3 screen cover with eyeholes and the fax machine is configured in a
4 FOR YOUR EYES ONLY mode operable to enable a viewing party to
5 hear/see a "read only" voice/video/fax mail.

1 149. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 configuring the first and second fax machines in a FINGER/THUMB
3 PRINT SCAN mode for enabling a user to verify an authenticity of
4 an intended recipient via a finger/thumb print scan.

1 150. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 configuring the first and second fax machines in a RETINA SCAN mode
3 for enabling a user to verify an authenticity of an intended
4 recipient via a retina scan.

1 151. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 configuring the first and second fax machines in a READ ONLY mode
3 for enabling a user to only hear/read voice/video/fax mail.

1 152. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 configuring the first and second fax machines in an INSTANT STATUS
3 mode for enabling a user to be automatically notified if
4 voice/video/fax mail has been received at a fax machine of the
5 user.

1 153. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 configuring the first and second fax machines in a CARBON COPY (CC)
3 mode for enabling a user to have assurance that voice/video/fax
4 mail has been initiated by CC'ing a tracking number of the
5 voice/video/fax mail back to the fax machine.

1 154. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 configuring the first and second fax machines in a FAX QUEUE mode
3 for providing the fax machine with a fax queue which places
4 incoming calls in a first come first serve basis, and provides
5 incoming callers with a prompt indicating an approximate time the
6 fax machine will receive a particular sender's voice/video/fax
7 mail.

1 155. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 configuring the first and second fax machines in an IDENTITY mode
3 for enabling a user to ascertain whether receiving fax machine is
4 an intended target fax machine.

1 156. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 configuring the first and second fax machines in a DIRECTORY PROMPT
3 mode for enabling a user using to prompt an interconnected
4 receiving fax machine for a directory of extension numbers
5 available at the receiving fax machine.

1 157. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 configuring the first and second fax machines in an I'M HERE WHO'S
3 THERE mode for enabling users of the first and second fax
4 machines to communicate in a manner similar to instant messaging
5 or email.

1 158. The method according to claim 157, further comprising
2 configuring the first and second fax machines to communicate to
3 other fax machines in a manner similar to instant messaging or
4 email.

1 159. The method according to claim 157, further comprising
2 configuring the first and second fax machines to communicate to
3 computing devices interconnected to a network connection in a
4 manner similar to instant messaging or email.

1 160. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 configuring the first and second fax machines in a PORTRAIT mode
3 for enabling the fax machine equipped with a camera to provide
4 users with images of senders/receivers of voice/video/fax mail,
5 or persons, or things.

1 161. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 configuring the first and second fax machines in an AWAY MESSAGE
3 mode for enabling an away message to be placed on either fax
4 machine to enable senders to know that a particular individual at
5 the associated fax machine is not present at a particular time to
6 receive voice/video/fax mail.

1 162. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 configuring the first and second fax machines in a REFERENCE/LIBRARY
3 mode for providing internal/external access to
4 documents/information stored in a storage database.

1 163. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 configuring the first and second fax machines in a TOUCH PAD mode
3 to activate a full size touch pad to allow participants to
4 instant message in script.

1 164. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 configuring the first and second fax machines in a VOICE RECOGNITION
3 mode to enable the fax machine to match an intended receiver with
4 a previously stored library of voices before transmitting a
5 fax/voice mail.

1 165. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 configuring the first and second fax machines in a PARTY LINE mode
3 to enable a transmitting fax machine to be communicatively
4 connected to plural receiving fax machines via a party line.

1 166. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 configuring the first and second fax machines in a VIEW A DOCUMENT
3 mode to enable the associated fax machine to determine whether a
4 sender of a fax transmission requires previewing of an image of
5 the fax transmission prior to electronically/physically releasing
6 delivery of the fax transmission to a receiving fax machine.

1 167. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 configuring the first and second fax machines in a CONTRACT mode
3 to enable the corresponding fax machine to enable a sender and a
4 receiver of a fax transmission of a contract/agreement/under-
5 standing requiring signatures from both the sender and the
6 receiver to view the signatures of the sender and the receiver at
7 transmitting and receiving fax machines at both ends of the fax
8 transmission.

1 168. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 configuring the first and second fax machines with check paper
3 including a tracking number and a bar code running along one side
4 of the check paper.

1 169. The method according to claim 115, further comprising
2 configuring the first and second fax machines to activate an
3 alarm upon a breach of security of the associated fax machine.

1 170. The method according to claim 169, wherein the alarm
2 results in emission of an audible sound at a predetermined
3 decibel level.

1 171. The method according to claim 169, wherein the alarm
2 results in transmission of a signal to a remote authorized party
3 to advise them of a breach in security protocol of the fax
4 machine.